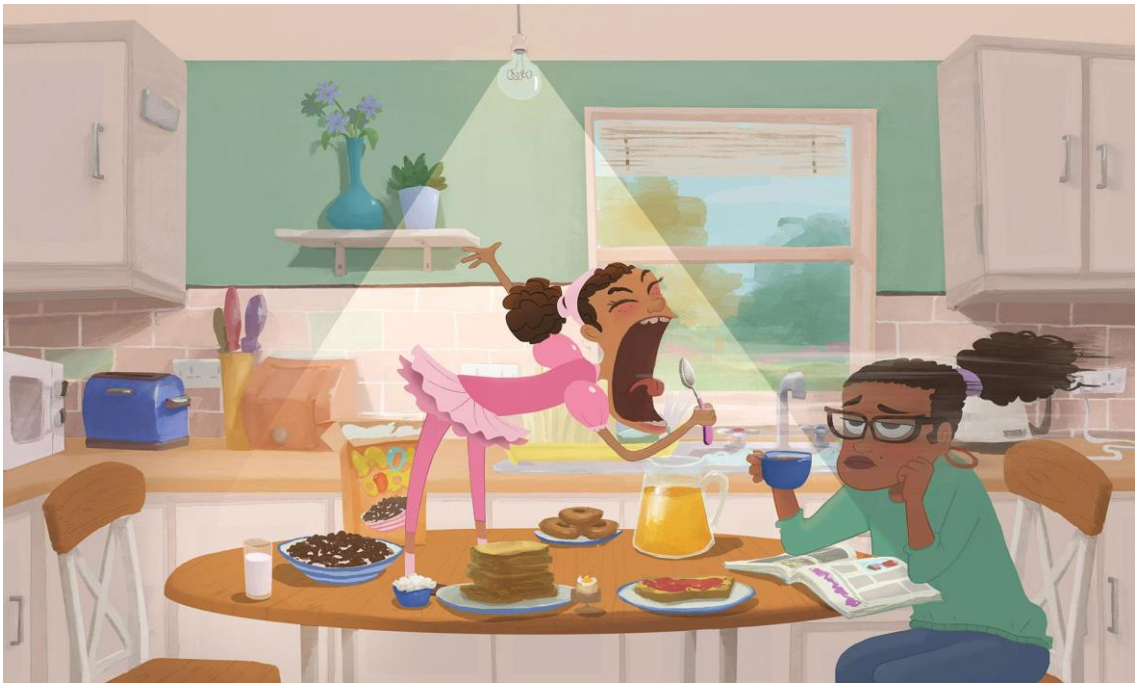
THE WORLD'S WORST CHILDREN

Mini Bible

52 x 11 minutes 2D animated sketch show.
Based on the best-selling books by David Walliams.

For 6-10 year olds (and in a sneaky underhand way everyone else too)



The good (good at being bad), the bad, and the grubby!

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OVERVIEW

David Walliams has revolutionised reading for children and has become one of the most influential children's writers today. Since the publication of his ground-breaking first novel, The Boy in the Dress (2008), Walliams has seen unprecedented growth with global sales exceeding 30 million copies, and his books translated into 53 languages. Now David Walliams reluctantly invites us to meet The World's Worst Children. A collection of the worst-behaved, foulest-smelling, grubbiest Herberts and Harriets from the UK and around the globe. These are, after all, the WORLD'S worst children.

Featuring the characters from the hugely successful best-selling book series, this is a laugh out loud animated sketch show with a themed narrative spine. Each episode will feature a multi-part deeper story that focuses on one of the core characters. The rest of the World's Worst Children will then feature in sketches, quickies and background jokes that complement that central story.

Just as with the books, we'll delight in the extraordinary and charmingly repulsive stories of the children who, against our better judgement, we will want to see again and again. But while we'll enjoy watching their bad behavior we won't condone it – they will ultimately get their comeuppance, although always in the funniest and most unexpected way.

We'll be poignant at times and engage our audience's emotions through our characters' stories, but our aim is to make our audience laugh so the show will be packed with jokes. Every line will be either a laugh or working towards one. We will never miss a chance for a background gag and even the smallest minor character will have their own comedy schtick and the potential to grow.

Our show is hosted by The Collector, a British upper crust version of PT Barnum. This curator of the horrible has amassed a vast collection of artefacts, pictures, videos and statistics to fill his World's Worst Children Museum. It's like a Ripley's Believe It Or Not of appalling behaviour. The Collector feels his role is to warn others and to give lessons in how to deal with these monsters… but he's not made of stone and the truth is that deep down he rather likes them.

While the characters all feature in The Collector's museum, they do not all live in the same area as each other. That doesn't mean that they can't appear in each other's stories and sketches when we want them to. We'll always find a comical excuse to bring them together when necessary.

CORE CHARACTERS

In order for the viewers to invest themselves in our characters, our A-stories will focus on a core group of about 8 recurring characters. We'll use the others as seasoning along the way in gags, quickies and Act Break sketches. The characters will be designed to cover a wide range of awful behaviours and motivations, and each will be given the depth needed to create multiples stories without getting repetitive.

STACEY SUPERSTAR

Stacey has an unshakeable belief that she is going to be a superstar and won't let a small thing like lack of talent get in the way. To her, Stacey is the star of the ongoing movie of her own life – her family are her fans and her bedroom is her dressing room. Every time we meet her she has set off down some new road towards fame, whether it be recording her first hit single or making a block buster movie with her phone, and no one will stand in her way. Stacey's attempts to achieve greatness always end in disaster but they never shake her inner belief.

FUSSY FRANKIE

Frankie is locked in a battle of wits with his mother as she tries to trick him into eating greens. Each spends their life relentlessly trying to get one step ahead of the other. If Frankie manages to catapult his veggies over the fence, then Frankie's mum will stage a cut-price nuclear containment facility next door and get her friend Janet to dress up as a mutated broccoli monster that must be eaten by Frankie in order to be appeased. Frankie stories are full of fun espionage and mutated vegetables.

BRIAN WONG

Brian is never Wrong, he knows everything and makes sure that everyone knows that he knows everything. Brian revels in the fact that he is never wrong and that can make it extra tricky on the rare occasions when he actually is. When Brian is wrong or doesn't know the answer, he simply can't admit it, no matter what trouble it causes. Brian would much rather give a wrong answer and then attempt to change the whole world to prove he was right. When Brian names Vienna as the capital of Australia, he dedicates his life to changing every Atlas and map so that it is. Brian's sense of superiority can get him into trouble, because of course no-one likes a smarty-pants!

GRUBBY GERTRUDE

It's not that Gertrude is slovenly, she just loves mess. She delights in dirt and revels in the revolting. Her bedroom is a shrine to trash – it has so many dirty socks and empty crisp packets that you can get lost in it and she frequently does. Strange things happen when that much garbage is collected in one space… Alice in Wonderland like adventures when she follows her missing hamster down a trash tunnel under her bed… Robinson Crusoe style fun when she loses her door and becomes stranded on her bed in the ocean of grot… and when the rubbish reaches critical mass a Black Hole is formed and the laws of physics no longer apply. Of course, none of this will stop Gertrude growing rare funguses in her socks or attempting her own "Make Under" show on the internet. A TV survivalist names Gertrude's bedroom *the most hostile environment he has ever faced*.

NIGEL THE NITBOY

Nigel has a serious case of head-lice and is shunned by the world. But Nigel is a hugely positive boy and loves all living things, especially his nits. He doesn't want to get rid of them and he worries about other kids who are using the special shampoos to hurt them. Something of a nit whisperer, he often 'rescues' people's nits by getting them to hop from their head to his. In return for safe haven, the nits become Nigel's loyal protectors and will perform any tasks he sets them to. Nigel becomes a nit-witted superhero, as swarms of his nits form shapes and perform any task he gives them. All Nigel needs now is someone who is happy to be rescued by a cloud of nits.

OLIVIA HUM

Olivia has loves annoying people with her humming, she simply can't beat the satisfaction she gets from driving people crazy. In fact, she's been humming for so long she doesn't know how to stop and life has started throwing up challenges that are tricky for the dedicated hummer. How do you get a book out of the library when you're not allowed to go in because of the noise? How do you play hide and seek if people can always hear you? And how do you get out of the zoo when your humming has driven the tiger so nuts that he's escaped and is hunting you? There are also frustrating occasions when her humming accidentally causes positive results, like when it helps guide in fogbound airplanes or when it soothes a screaming baby. It's no fun when people thank you for something you intended to be annoying.

HARRY WHO NEVER DOES HIS HOMEWORK

Harry has dedicated a large part of his life to the pursuit of not doing any work. His teacher calls him lazy but nothing could be less true, for Harry it's a matter of principle

and there's no limit to the lengths he'll go to in order to avoid homework. For example, where a normal kid might claim that a dog ate his homework, Harry will claim that a tornado destroyed his house and then spend many hours faking videos that 'prove' it. Harry is determined not to learn but his dedication to his art is making him by far the most educated kid in the school.

WINDY MINDY

Mindy is the most popular person in her class because of her entertaining command of her noxious gases. She has discovered that her farts can bring joy to the world and is on a mission to do just that. Mindy can clear a room of teachers in seconds flat, leaving it available for her friends, who have learned to wear nose plugs. Mindy is an artist and takes her gaseous emission very seriously, eating only bean sprouts and cabbage-based meals and drinking fizzy drinks that have been pre-shook. Mindy can play tunes, do impressions and when necessary fill a hot air balloon. Mindy would like the world to recognise her skills and is looking for an outlet to show them off but finding an adult who is anything other than horrified is a challenge.

A-STORIES

GRUBBY GERTRUDE AND THE BLACK HOLE

Grubby Gertrude's room is disgusting, and she's incredibly proud of the fact that she hasn't seen the floor in years. She doesn't care when her dad points out that the ceiling below is about to cave in. Meanwhile in another part of the city, NASA notice some unusual readings. Incredibly a stable Black Hole is forming in a house in town. It's an unbelievable opportunity for study. It turns out the dirt in Gertrude's room is so deep and thick that it's forming a singularity. Gertrude is thrilled when the scientists arrive and inform Gertrude's dad that the room must be left just as it is so that they can study the anomaly. In celebration she shoves a handful of crisps in her mouth and moves to chuck the packet on the floor. The scientist looks up in horror… adding anything to this delicate balance could tip it over the edge. They will all be sucked into the Black Hole, followed by the house, the town and the world! Gertrude is outraged – no more trash!? She can't deal with that, even if it does mean destroying the world. She drops the packet… everything starts to get sucked into the Hole. Their only chance now is a vacuum cleaner – but the socket is buried under the gunk. Gertrude finally relents and dives into the disgusting bedroom soup with the vacuum cable and manages to plug it in. Dad and the scientist start vacuuming. They fight the pull of the Black Hole and manage to stop the disaster - although there are one or two effects that may be hard to reverse – like the moon being bent permanently out of shape.

HARRY WHO NEVER DOES HIS HOMEWORK: THE RECORD ATTEMPT

Harry is just one day away from breaking Lazy Leon's 40-year-old record for Longest Time Without Doing Any Homework. There are only two pieces of Harry's homework

due: a History essay on Genghis Khan and a 'winter' art project for Miss Fragrant's art lesson. Harry is feeling confident: Miss Fragrant rarely turns up for lessons and Mr. Philips, the History teacher, is a push over. The night before all the work is due Harry is awoken by the ghost of Genghis Khan who demands that Harry 'tell his story'. The next day Harry sadly hands in an essay on the Mongol Warlord and heads home for lunch to avoid his disappointed fans. At home Harry finds a Genghis Khan prop hat hidden behind his curtain! Inside is the name Leo Phillips! Mr. Phillips is Lazy Leo and has tricked him into doing his homework so he doesn't beat his record! Harry races back to school and tries to grab his work back before Mr. Philips marks it. They wrestle. Harry rips it up into tiny pieces and throws it out the window. He thinks he's done it – he's broken the record. Then a voice shouts "thank you Harry!" Harry looks out and sees the pieces of paper fluttering down around Miss Fragrant, the art teacher. She's delighted that Harry has made it snow! It's unconventional but a beautiful piece of art about winter!

BRIAN WONG: VIENNA, AUSTRALIA

Brian is doing a school geography test and is so relaxed and over-confident that he writes Vienna is the capital of Australia, not Austria. There is chaos in the class as people realise that he finally got a question wrong. Brian meanwhile is horrified and is holding his line – he is never wrong and he plans to prove it. Brian manages to arrange for a school trip to an Atlas printer where he sneaks away from his teacher and re-works the maps. When the latest map is printed it does indeed show that Austria and Australia have been switched over. Smug Brian was right after all and all those idiot children who thought that Vienna was in Austria are retrospectively marked down. Brian is pretty pleased with himself until he sees the news… things aren't going well for all the Australian shops that just got deliveries of lederhosen and it's even worse for all the kangaroos that just got re-located to the alps. Can Brian be big enough to admit his wrong in order to save the Koala's from freezing?

WINDY MINDY AND BIG BRASS BAND

Windy Mindy is popular with her friends, who know to wear nose clips when around her. She gets them out of lessons by clearing the room with her smells or impressions of earthquakes. One day the Music teacher comes in with a blocked nose and hears Mindy playing a tuba with her bottom to the delight of her friends. The sound is so beautiful that he puts her in the band for the Town's 150th birthday celebration. Mindy takes the event seriously and stops farting to build up gas for the performance – she also eats nothing but prunes, cabbage and oats washed down with fizzy drinks. This is going to be great and the whole thing will be on national TV. But when she lets rip on her first note, the effect of all that build up is so powerful it knocks out the rest of the band and the audience (apart from her friends who had nose clips). The people watching at home are still expecting a show. What will she do? She can't play all the instruments by herself. Mindy convinces her friends to give it a go. She makes them believe in themselves like a Football manager. Together they play the instruments with their bottoms and it's amazing. They blow the roof off the school – literally and figuratively. It's perfect… until the cake for the 150th birthday comes out and someone lights the candles. Boom!

FUSSY FRANKIE – ZOMBIE VEG

Fussy Frankie has rigged up a catapult under his chair, so that when his mother isn't looking he is able to fling his vegetables far out of the window. Later he's walking past the brand new cut-price Nuclear containment facility next door, when he is attacked by a monster made of all the mutated vegetables he's been throwing out of the window. The rejected vegetables are looking for the one who rejected them, demanding to be eaten. A bearded scientist and a couple of soldiers grab Frankie and beg him to help them – this monster could destroy the city unless the one who rejected it in the first place agrees to eat it. Frankie must eat the vegetable monster to save the city. Frankie is torn – he's sworn never to let veggies pass his lips but the city is at stake… at last he agrees and reluctantly eats the vegetables. Once he starts eating, his mum reveals herself – she was the scientist in disguise, it's all a set-up, including the veg monster who is actually her friend Janet, dressed up.

OLIVIA HUM AND HUMMING HUMBERT

Humbert's parents have run out of baby sitters (cue montage of disastrous baby sitting). The only person left is the incredibly annoying Olivia Hum. Olivia has never annoyed a baby with her humming before, so she happily agrees to sit – this is going to be interesting. Humbert is a ball of destructive energy when she arrives, but amazingly her humming soothes him and he falls asleep. This is unexpected. Olivia tries humming louder to wake him up but it doesn't work. Messages of thanks start pouring in from neighbours at last the crazy, noisy baby is asleep. The parents arrive home and thank Olivia effusively for her humming. Olivia is in a tricky position – her humming is supposed to annoy people, not please them! Is she prepared to give up humming? Faced with this existential crisis Olivia comes up with neat solution – she teaches Humbert to hum. To her delight Olivia Hum and Humming Humbert are far more annoying than she was on her own.

BRIAN WONG – WHO WANTS TO BE TRILLIONAIRE

Brian Wong is never wrong, which is why people love to use him as their lifeline on Who Wants to Be a Trillionaire – we see lots of examples of him getting ludicrous questions right. But finally on a bad phone line he mishears and says his own name instead of the Wright brothers for "Who took the first powered flight?" When the mistake is revealed, Brian won't admit he misheard and sticks to his guns claiming that he did indeed perform the first powered flight. Brian sets about proving himself right – he sneaks into a top secret laboratory and steals a time machine. He goes back in time to the late Tudor/Stuart Era with the aim of flying before the Wright brothers. Sadly, no one in the time he's arrived in knows how to build a plane and Brian won't admit that he doesn't know. So he tries to build one anyway, based on his sketchy memory of the Wright Brothers' flyer. It does fly, briefly, proving he was right… but it also crashes in London causing the Great Fire. Brian returns to the present to find the history books updated with his name being the first to fly, but also naming him as the villain who started the Great Fire.

OTHER CHARACTERS

As well as the core of A-Story characters, we'll gradually introduce several others through the shorter sketches and Museum cutaways. These characters, though initially simple gag characters, will grow across the course of the series until they too will be able to carry A-stories. Here are a few examples:

EARNEST ERNEST

Ernest is very serious and his inability to laugh has baffled the leading laughter specialist Professor Chortle for years. The Professor has devoted his life to making Ernest laugh and we'll see him try a succession of the world's best clowns, tickling robots and custard pie machines. Nothing will work, and the Professor will always end up on the receiving end of whatever mayhem results. The Professor will never give up… and will never see what we see, a stifled giggle from Ernest at the trouble he's causing.

SOFIA SOFA

The world's laziest girl has now been sitting on her sofa for 9 years. She's been on the sofa so long that she has become part of the sofa, but she doesn't care as long as she can carry on watching the TV uninterrupted. Nothing will move her from that sofa, even recording her own fitness video or meeting fans… who she always treats to a personal performance of a heartfelt "SHHHHH. I'm having screen-time"

PETULA PERPETUAL MOTION

Petula is full of energy and wants to be involved in everything. Sadly, she has no attention span and leaves everything half done as she bounces from project to project. She also takes zero care over everything she does, so not only does she leave everything unfinished, she usually leaves it broken too. Ask Petula to help you for a day and it'll take two days to repair the damage. Petula's inability to sit still can be dangerous for those around – "Petula stay very still, so the bear doesn't see us." On the other hand, she makes a great Scarecrow.

THE COLLECTOR

The Collector, voiced by David Walliams, has dedicated his life to the exposure of terrible behaviour among children. Through his museum he hopes to send out a warning, not only to parents, but also to the children themselves. His message is that *this* is what will happen if such rotten behaviour continues. But the truth is that no one spends their life collecting weird artefacts and pictures that they don't, at least secretly, enjoy. As The Collector introduces us to these horrors, we get a growing suspicion that maybe, deep down, he doesn't despise them as much as he says.

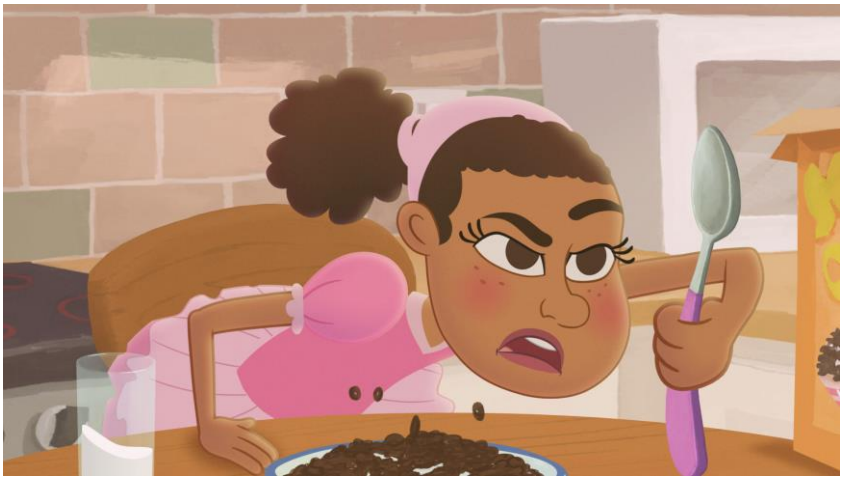
OTHER CHARACTERS

Along with the children and The Collector, we will also have a cast of regular supporting characters to populate the world. Each of them will have their own comedy schtick and will be available to pop up in any of the stories no matter where they are set. If we need a Doctor in a sketch, then chances are it will be our regular doctor character. PC may be the Policeman in Nigel the Nitboy's town but when Stacy is having problems with the law it will be PC Flake's bad luck that that's the week he got transferred to her town. The Rattenboroughs, our resident family of rats can pop up in any house in any part of the world… and be disgusted by the state of the house they find themselves in. And of course Raj, the scene-stealing newsagent of David's books, will periodically turn up as well.

EPISODE CONTEXT AND STRUCTURE

Whereas the books use a portrait gallery of the children as a fun visual introduction, we have expanded that idea into a full-fledged museum, curated by the uber-refined COLLECTOR. The Collector takes on the role of NARRATOR (voiced by David Walliams) introducing stories via the Museum's vast collection of horrid artefacts and displays.

Each episode will have an A-story focused on one of our main characters, with a two-act-and-tag structure. Interspersed between these acts we will cut back to The Collector to further explore the museum and to see other examples from the world of the World's Worst Children that will embellish the episode's theme.



Here's a rough breakdown of how an episodes would work:

1. OPENING
In the Museum The Collector greets us as he walks through the museum's exhibits (with lots of opportunities for background gags!). He introduces the theme of today's show, via a quick sketch featuring one of the children. The Collector then introduces our A-story character.

2. A-STORY: ACT ONE
The first act of a deeper character story featuring one of our core characters.

3. ACT ONE BREAK
The Collector reflects on the story so far and gives us a welcome break from the nastiness with a completely different kind of nastiness… a sketch featuring one of our other characters that further develops the theme of the episode.

4. A-STORY: ACT TWO
The second act of our lead character story that leads to the resolution of their story and an apparent lesson learned.

5. ACT TWO BREAK
The Collector tries to find some crumb of comfort in a lesson learned from today's story. He may use other exhibits from other children to hammer home his point.

6. A-STORY: TAG
A very short third act, essentially a tag, played for big visual laughs that resets the world, shows the damage caused by our principal character and ultimately suggests that they have learned nothing.

7. WRAP-UP
The Collector gives a pithy wrap-up, reveals some souvenir or picture that he has acquired for the museum from the disaster that we've just witnessed and bids us farewell. We'll always end with a visual gag featuring one of the exhibits.

CREATIVE TEAM

A co-production between **King Bert Productions** (David Walliams' production company), and the Oscar nominated animation studio **Brown Bag Films**. The World's Worst Children will be animated in their Manchester Studio.

Written by **Ben Ward** (Horrible Histories, Danger Mouse, Disenchantment, Street) and **Reid Harrison** (The Simpsons, Disenchantment, Counterfeit Cat)

And of course

David Walliams, best-selling author, award winning performer and excellent swimmer.